

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/036,298

Examiner

Cheryl Lewis

Applicant(s)

RAMOND M. HAYNES

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the applicant's communication filed on June 20, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-30.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 4/5/02 & 6/20/05 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 5/2/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-30 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. The Specification has been amended as follows:

On page 1, lines 9 and 10, delete ~~(not yet been assigned), and having attorney Docket No. RIGHTLN-001A,~~ and replace with 10/035,347.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not render obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of applicant's invention nor anticipate the combination of claimed elements including 'defining a first rights characteristic; defining and storing in computer readable memory a first media rights hierarchy data structure having a first set of nodes with corresponding rights characteristics values for the first rights characteristic; identifying media rights ancestors and media rights decedents within the first set of nodes; assigning node identifiers to the first set nodes of the first media rights hierarchy data

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structure; identifying a first set of rights for a first media property, the first set of rights corresponding to at least a portion of the first set nodes; and retrieving from computer readable memory rights related information using a joining of the first set of rights and the first media rights hierarchy data structure' as recited in independent claim 1.

As per claim 16, the prior art of record does not teach the combination of elements read in light of the specification including 'associating the first set of rights with a first media property; defining a second set of rights, the second set of rights corresponding to at least a second portion of at least one of the first set of nodes and the second set of nodes; associating the second set of rights with a second media property; determining available rights for the first media property in response to a first user request from a user by navigating the at least one of the first and second media rights hierarchy data structures defined in the first set of rights; and determining available rights for the second media property in response to a second user request by navigating the at least one of the first and second media rights hierarchy data structures defined in the second set of rights'.

As per claim 25, the prior art of record does not teach the combination of elements read in light of the specification including 'receiving a specification of a general level of rights corresponding to intellectual property owned by a first intellectual property rights owner; receiving a query for a lower level right corresponding to the intellectual property that is a descendent of at least one of the general level of rights in a hierarchy of intellectual property rights; and determining, via a media rights hierarchy data structure stored in computer readable memory, if the lower level rights corresponding to

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the intellectual property is available for licensing by forming at least a first implicit relationship between the general level of rights owned corresponding to the intellectual property, and a general level of rights licensed out corresponding to the intellectual property' and similarly recited in independent claim 30.

The remaining claims 2-14, 17-24, and 26-29 comprise dependent claims, thus these claims are patently distinct over the art of record for at least the above reasons.

The examiner agrees with the applicants' remarks, filed on June 20, 2005, page 9 lines 13-34; and page 10 lines 1-3.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONCLUSION

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

A. Sick et al. (U.S. 2002/0040338 A1) discloses a computer-based system and method for searching and screening financial securities and relevant intellectual property;

B. Corless (U.S. Pat. No. 6,885,999 B1) discloses digital identifiers and digital identifier control systems for intellectual properties;

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C. Beery (U.S. 2001/0034846 A1) discloses a digital data and software security protection; and

D. Marbach et al. (U.S. 2002/0082973 A1) discloses an intellectual property bid method and system.

NAME OF CONTACT

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Lewis whose telephone number is (571) 272-4113. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

(571) 273-4113 (Use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions.).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/ Technology Center (571) 272-2100.



Cheryl Lewis
Patent Examiner
July 6, 2005



GRETA ROBINSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER